[31st October 1935

Appendix III.

[Vide answer to question No. 334 asked by Mr. V. Nadimuthu Pillai at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 31st October 1935, page 244 supra.]

Extract from the Chief Engineer's report, dated 16th August 1935.

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The complaint is that in many cases the sills are placed so high that when a small quantity of water is flowing in the river it does not rise above the sill. There may be a few cases where the sills might have been fixed too high and instructions were given even last year during my inspection of the delta to re-examine cases of real hardship. In all properly designed channels, the sluices in the several reaches excepting the tail reach should have their sills a little above the bed of the channels in order to enable a proportionate supply to be carried down to the tail end of the channel during times of shortage. Otherwise it will be only the upper sluices that will be drawing all the water and the sluices at the tail end will not receive any supply. The arrangements made for raising sills of old sluices and putting in silt shutters is a first step towards securing a more equitable distribution of water over the whole length of the rivers in the delta. The very fact that kuruvai seed beds were sown in the proper season all over the usual places where kuruvai is grown in the delta and even at the tail reaches of the several rivers would show that the initial supplies given are adequate to give proportionate supplies required for all the preliminary operations and that the silt shutters did not really hinder the low supplies from being utilized at the various sluices. Later on however when transplantation of kuruvai was started there was difficulty in forcing the water to the tail reaches when the steady supply from Mettur was interrupted on occasions due to the necessity for repairing the slips in the low level channel. This is due to the system of raised sills not having been stabilized as yet and the action of the upper ryots in tampering with the silt shutters and not to the principle of having raised sills being a wrong one. On the 3rd August the Settlement Commissioner and myself inspected the tail end of Rajamadam branch No. 21 under the Grand Anicut Canal system near Rajamadam close to the sea coast. In spite of the fact that only proportionate supplies were being sent down the Rajamadam Branch canal and the distributary No. 21 and not the designed full supply, a fair quantity of water was reaching the tail end. On a full consideration of the whole question I am decidedly of opinion that the system of silt shutters and raised sills is a badly wanted improvement in the delta and that the ryots will in time learn to appreciate the benefits of it. * * *